

Serial No.: 09/976,836

Atty. Docket #: WT-3-CIP4 (05001.1010)

Amendments**Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): An automated order processing system permitting customers who have already provided customer information to the system to order selected products from a vast array of products offered by multiple participating merchants, wherein one such product is a check-in security clearance and participating merchants include airlines or other entities providing security services at public transportation sites or other public venues. said system comprising:

a ~~product/merchant~~ database including information corresponding to an order number assigned to each product offered through the system by multiple participating merchants, wherein at least one of the products offered is a check-in security clearance;

a customer database including a customer information set for each system customer, said information set including extensive customer identification information, ~~customer address information and method of payment information;~~

a customer interface for receiving incoming product orders from customers who have connected to the system via a system address and for identifying each customer placing an order;

means employing information from the customer database for matching each incoming customer order to the customer information set for that customer;

means employing information from the ~~product/merchant~~ database for matching each incoming customer order to a participating merchant; and

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means for communicating processed orders to the participating merchant that provides the ordered product; and

~~wherein the participating merchants include airlines or other entities providing security services at public transportation sites or other public venues and the product offered comprises check-in security clearance for customers~~

the participating merchant, in response to receiving the processed order, providing a random multi-digit code that the customer can present at time of check-in.

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Claim 2. (Currently amended): A method permitting customers to use an order processing system to order ~~selected products~~ check-in security clearance from a ~~vast array of products offered by multiple participating merchants, the~~ and participating merchant including airlines or other entities providing security services at public transportation sites or other public venues, said method comprising:

establishing accounts between an order processing system and ~~multiple a~~ participating merchants ~~who have agreed to offer their respective products for sale;~~

assigning an order number to each check-in security product offered by the participating merchants;

establishing a customer database including a customer information set for each customer, said information set including extensive customer identification, ~~customer address information and method of payment information;~~

each customer entering into the system a customer order number identifying the specific check-in security clearance desired and, when desiring to place an product order for a check-in security clearance, utilizing a system address to establish contact with the system ~~and entering the order number for the product desired;~~

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identifying each customer placing an order and employing information from the customer database to match each incoming customer order number to the customer information set for that customer; and

communicating processed orders to the participating merchant that provides the check-in security clearance ~~ordered product~~; and

the participating merchant verifying that the customer can be granted the check-in security clearance.

~~wherein the participating merchants include airlines or other entities providing security services at public transportation sites or other public venues and the product offered comprises check in security clearance for customers.~~

Claim 3. (Original): A method permitting customers to use an order processing system to automatically provide customer identification information to security personnel at public transportation sites or other public venues where customers desire entry, said method comprising:

establishing accounts between an order processing system and security operations at public transportation sites and other public venues;

assigning an order number by which a customer's desire to gain entry to public transportation site or other public venue may be communicated to the system;

establishing a customer database including a customer information set for each customer, said information set including customer identification information;

each customer, when desiring entry at a public transportation site or public venue that requires identity verification, utilizing a system address to establish contact with the system and entering an order number;

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verifying the identity of each customer following the customer's entry of an order number and employing information from the customer database to match each incoming customer order to the customer information set for that customer; and

communicating the system's verification of the identity of the customer and selected portions of the customer identification information in the customer database to the public transportation site or public venue for use by security personnel at the site or venue in further verifying the identity of the customer desiring entry.

Claim 4. (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein the customer identification information in the customer database includes digital photographs of customers.

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Concluded

Claim 5. (Original): The method of claim 3 including the step, performed by the order processing system, of monitoring activities associated with individual customers and cross referencing the activities of customers to generate a customer security rating that is communicated to the public transportation site or public venue for use by security personnel at the site or venue.

Claim 6. (New): The method of claim 5, wherein the step of monitoring activities associated with individual customers includes the step of monitoring recent travel activities of the customer.

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Claim 7. (New): The method of claim 5, wherein the step of monitoring activities associated with individual customers includes the step of receiving data from security agencies.

Claim 8. (New): The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of applying artificial intelligence engines to cross-reference activities of multiple customers.

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Claim 9. (New): The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

providing the individual customer with a random multi-digit code for the

customer; and

at time of check-in, an agent entering the multi-digit code into a computer

which confirms the prior verification of identity.

Claim 10. (New): The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of generating a

probability of risk associated with the individual customer.